

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

300 N. Strawberry Avenue

Demopolis, AL 36732

334-289-3895

www.demopolispresbyterian.com

fpcdemopolis@gmail.com

JANUARY 2022

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We are Bible people. The first chapter, section two, of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* tells us that all sixty-six books of the Bible "are given by inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life." Section six begins, "The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture." The whole counsel of God? That sounds big! Well, after learning that our chief end is "to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever," the *Shorter Catechism* tells us that it is only in the Bible that we can find the "rule" that "directs us" how to achieve our primary purpose in life.

Yet we face a dilemma today. The culture within which we find ourselves declares this book old-fashioned and outdated at best or perhaps hurtful and oppressive at worst. And we must admit that even believers like us may wonder where God's word directs us in the midst of vaccine mandates and deadly tornadoes. Things seem so uncertain. And sometimes very sorrowful. What are Christians, people of the book, to do? Let's see if we can find some help right in the Bible itself. We will start back when the Books of Moses were being written.

As God's mouthpiece in revealing the first five books of the Bible, Moses anticipates the uncertainty Israel will face as they enter the land of Canaan. So he directs them, *The secret things belongs to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29:29.* We may apply this promise to ourselves as well. We do not know the hidden counsel of God. But we do have his whole revealed counsel. This is what we must concentrate on.

GROW *in the*
GRACE *and*
KNOWLEDGE
of JESUS.
2 Peter 3:18

How can this help? Remember that God's Word is not an encyclopedia or dictionary, even though it teaches us a lot. Nor is it a novel, though it contains an amazing story. It is also not only rules. The Bible contains sixty-six books of Holy Spirit-inspired literature. It contains history to tell us how we got here and became God's people and prophecy to tell us how Jesus came to earth and that he is coming back again. It contains poetry to help us approach God and deal with our circumstances. Think how Job helps us approach suffering. Ecclesiastes tells us that confusion will come, but that fearing God is the end of the matter. The Psalms helps us in so many ways--praise, thanksgiving, confession of sin. And the Proverbs give us the nuts and bolts of how to live skillfully in this amazing, but fallen, world God has made.

In the New Testament, the Gospels, a whole new kind of literature, tell us about Jesus and how he accomplished the salvation of his people, even as the prophets foretold. The Acts recounts the incredible growth of the early church through the power of the Holy Spirit working through ordinary men and women. And then the letters of Paul, Peter, James and others give us instruction and wisdom and rebuke and the way of salvation. The Bible *really* does help. And this is just a short introduction (or reminder) to the wonder of God's Word.

We started in Deuteronomy above. Let's close with a good word from Romans. As Paul was winding down his longest letter, he reminds us about the whole counsel God: *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4.*

Let's seek this hope as we study the Scriptures together--for his glory and our good.

In His Grace,
Pastor Josh



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

						1 B-day: Ella Burke Huizinga
2 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) B-day: Jonathan Cannon	3 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Olivia Rosa Huizinga Anniv: Billy & Ruth Symon	4 B-day: Carolyn Tipton	5	6 B-day: Kristy Atkins	7	8 B-day: Isaac Cannon
9 Deacon Meeting Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Communion Session Meeting B-day: Marcie Coddington	10 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	11 WM Hinged Study: 9:30 am WM Hinged Study: 6:30 pm	12 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm Choir Practice: 7pm	13	14	15
16 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Fellowship Potluck	17 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	18 WM Hinged Study: 9:30 am WM Hinged Study: 6:30 pm B-day: Edith Gill	19 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm Choir Practice: 7pm	20	21	22 Trinity PCA: Women's Ministry Morning Retreat with Ellie Holcomb, 9am-noon
23 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) HOP: 2pm	24 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	25 WM Hinged Study: 9:30 am WM Hinged Study: 6:30 pm	26 Wed. Dinner: 5:30pm Bible Study: 6pm Choir Practice: 7pm	27	28 B-day: Will Huizinga B-day: Ozzy Resto	29 Warrior Presbytery Women's Ministry: Annual Meeting
30 Deacons Fund Offering	31 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am					

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Mike Cork and (TBD)

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Ann Resto

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Game/Fellowship Time, Mondays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Women's Ministry Hinged (Ephesians) Study, Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall or at 6:30 pm.
- Dinner/Bible Study, Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall; dinner is at 5:30 pm and the Bible study is at 6:00 pm.
- Choir Practice, 7:00 pm.

DEACONS CLASS OF 2022: Glenn Basinger and Trey Griffith (outgoing)

DEACONS CLASS OF 2023: David Coddington and Mike Cork

DEACONS CLASS OF 2024: Ray Evans and Joel Coddington

DEACONS CLASS OF 2025: To Be Determined (TBD)

<u>2021</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 5,225.00	\$ 88,442.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 4,520.71	\$ 68,816.77
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 704.29	\$ 19,625.23
<u>2020</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 10,470.00	\$ 92,080.86
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 6,152.72	\$ 79,117.40
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 4,317.28	\$ 12,963.46

NOVEMBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 26

JANUARY EVENTS

January 9:

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.
- Session Meeting.

January 11: Women's Ministry Hinged Study on Ephesians resumes.

January 12: Wednesday Dinner and Bible Study resumes.

January 16: Potluck Fellowship Luncheon immediately following the worship service.

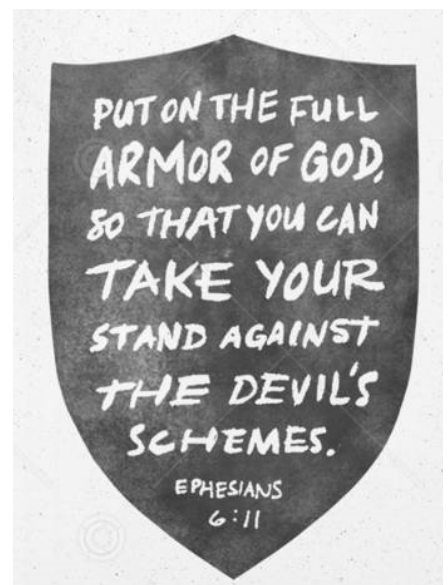
January 22: The women are invited to Trinity PCA in Tuscaloosa for their Women's Ministry Morning Retreat. This event will feature folk singer and songwriter Ellie Holcomb. Tickets are \$40. For more information please contact Trinity PCA at info@trinitytuscaloosa.org. Coffee and light breakfast are included with the ticket.

January 23: HOP (Hooked on Prayer) meets at 2pm at Eloise Harris' home.

January 29: Warrior Presbytery WM Annual Meeting will be held at Riverwood PCA and Kelly McNutt will be the guest speaker.

January 30: Deacons Fund special offering.

**BY GRACE
YOU HAVE BEEN
SAVED THROUGH
FAITH AND
THAT NOT OF
YOURSELVES; IT
IS THE
GIFT OF GOD
EPHESIANS 2:8**



UPCOMING IN JANUARY:

- **January Sermon Series:** "Starting with the Psalms." Join us on Sunday mornings as we explore how to worship and pray through the various circumstances of life.
- **New Wednesday Evening Study Series:** "The Holy Spirit and Prayer." We will study how the prophets, apostles, and early Christians relied on the Holy Spirit as they prayed, and with His help, we will pray too. Join us at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings.

HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

JANUARY 2022

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Evangelist
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
Chaplain Ministry	Mission to North America
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Beth Acton	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Acton, Beth	Hoggle, Judy
Allinder, Kate	Hooks, Chesnee
Bazuin, Caiden	Huizenga, Fran
Beale, Amy	Hux, Karen
Beard, Ken	Ivy, Kendall
Beard, Ronnie	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beeler, Peggy	Kelly, Dale
Belcher, Samuel	Lane, Barbara
Brantley, Maggie	Lawson, Connie
Brooker, Chrissy	Lewis, Kathy
Brooker, Jan	Ligon, Brandon
Busby, Rhae	Mackin, Jimmy
Bynum, Linda	McIntier, Jodie
Cannon, Mary	Mize, Bethany
Chastang, Kristy	Morgan, Laura
Coker, Jean	Mutisya, Cecilia
Craig, Noah	Parr, Higley
Curry, Walter	Plummer, Kaegan
Davidson, Karen	Reynolds, Christy
DeWitt, Robert	Sakon, Ethan
Duncan, Conner	Sall, Terry
Dyer, Doug	Sharp, Chris
Emerson, Sandra	Sims, Anna Katherine
Espy, Emily	Sims, Sarah
Finley, Betty	Thornton, Alaina
Foshee, Barbara	Tipton, Carolyn
Griffith, Michelle	VanderMolen, Popko
Hall, Jimmy	Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Womble, Caleb
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Zimmerman, Steve
Hayes, Betsy	
Hocker, Jeannie	

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.

If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.

**Can you pray?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.



OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)
Scott Kirkpatrick
Jimmy Mackin
Rick Wilson
Kendall Ivy
Jimmy Hall
Kristye Chastang
Bethany Mize

Illness:

Laura Morgan
Neal Bules
David Headley
Linda Dunning

Special Needs:

Liz Bond
Frank Ramey
The Hutton Family
Sharon Farst

Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison
Abigayle Kircharr

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
Joseph Wilson
Josh Tyson
Blake Ivy

Pregnancies:

Lyndsay Symon (due 1/22)
Katie Gill (due 6/22)